

addition to showing us the importance of family, friendship, happiness and history. Buck taught us about baseball. But more importantly, Buck taught us about life. He is a wonderful role model, and I thank him for his contributions to the Kansas City metropolitan region and to our United States of America. As Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor Kay Barnes was quoted as saying in this morning's Kansas City Star, "I'm terribly disappointed. I think it was a mistake that he has not been chosen. However, we all love him in Kansas City, and I believe that all around the country people recognize the contribution he has made to baseball in general and to the Negro Baseball League history."

Buck O'Neill, you will always be a charter member of the Kansas City Hall of Fame.

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**AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO  
AWARD A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD  
MEDAL TO THE TUSKEGEE AIR-  
MEN**

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 28, 2006*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1259, a resolution to honor the Tuskegee Airmen. I would also like to express my appreciation for their heroism and bravery. These men deserve the Nation's highest honor for their courage and patriotism.

In July 1941, 13 young Americans began military flight training at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Tuskegee, AL. Five of those 13 young men completed training and received their Army Air Corps silver pilot wings, becoming our Nation's first African-American military fighter pilots. They would later be known as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Between 1941 and 1946, 1992 pilots graduated at Tuskegee Army Air Field, with 450 of those serving during World War II in either the famed 99th Fighter Squadron or the 332nd Fighter Group. Both units, heralded for their bravery and tenacity, received more than one Presidential Unit Citation for exemplary tactical air support and aerial combat. The group also felt the price of war, losing 150 pilots while in training or on combat flights.

It has been said that the Tuskegee Airmen faced two wars—one against a military force overseas and the other against racism and bigotry at home and abroad. Yet, in the face of these challenges, they accepted their country's call to service and fought heroically in great battles for freedom.

I am honored to represent 3 of these courageous individuals: Mr. O. Oliver Goodall of Alhambra, CA; Mr. Andrew Jack Simon of South Pasadena, CA; and Mr. LeRoy Criss of Pasadena, CA. They received their training and joined the ranks of Tuskegee Airmen in 1942 and 1943. Today, I honor Mr. Goodall, Mr. Simon, Mr. Criss, and all other Tuskegee Airmen who served our country with valor and distinction.

**HONORING THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES,  
FRANK MCKENNA**

**HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the outgoing Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Frank McKenna. After a successful tenure in office, the Ambassador is returning home to New Brunswick.

Due to his commitment to solving problems and his indefatigable energy, Ambassador McKenna has presided over a number of important achievements during his time in Washington. I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ambassador McKenna in the last year on issues important to both our countries. We have agreed that the longest undefended border in the world must remain strong and secure, but not become a barrier to travelers, businesses, and border communities in both of our great nations.

Mr. Speaker, Canada is our Nation's largest trading partner, with some \$1.2 billion worth of goods and services crossing the border between our two countries each day. Ambassador McKenna and I have worked together to strengthen this relationship, and to advocate for commonsense solutions that both improve border security while also facilitating trade and travel.

Indeed, through his successful careers in public life, law, business, and in diplomacy, Ambassador McKenna has understood the depth and breadth of relations between Canadians and Americans. He has employed his experience, tact and plain-spoken pragmatism to ensure that the occasional difference in priorities of our two governments does not get in the way of this friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ambassador McKenna for his friendship, and his service to Canada and the U.S. I wish him well on his future endeavors, and hope that we will get together again soon over a meal of fried chicken and rice pudding.

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**CONGRATULATING MY FRIEND  
RAUL VARGAS ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM OVER 30 YEARS OF  
SERVICE TO OUR NATION'S  
LATINO STUDENTS**

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor an old friend and fellow educator, Mr. Raul Vargas, on the occasion of his retirement. For over three decades, Raul has guided young men and women in realizing their academic goals through his pioneering efforts in higher education accessibility for Latino students in southern California and across the country.

Born in Lordsburg, New Mexico, Raul moved with his family to Miami, Arizona after his father's death. It was in this small mining town that I first met Raul, and can recall many fond memories growing up with Raul and his siblings, Felipa, Alfredo, Alfonso, Elvia, and

Elisa. At Miami High I learned of Raul's ability as a basketball player and a student.

During the summer of 1964, I was again reacquainted with Raul at Arizona State University. We decided to become roommates and moved in with Leo Gutierrez and Bob Venegas to Contempo West, a.k.a., sin city. It was during this time that I assisted Raul with his study habits and he assisted me with my social life. During this time he met a young lady from Wickenburg, Arizona who would later become his wife. We remained roommates until December 1965 when I left to marry Verma.

In 1972, Raul accepted a position at the University of Southern California (USC) as Executive Director of the Office for Mexican American Programs, marking the beginning of over thirty years as a leading administrator as part of the USC family. It was there that Raul and eight other USC alumni founded the USC Mexican American Alumni Association (MAAA) in 1974. The MAAA was established to be a vehicle of support for higher Latino enrollment at USC, providing tuition assistance to undergraduate, graduate, medical, dental, and law school students. The overwhelming success of the program under Raul's leadership, is evident not only in its more than 5800 scholarships awarded totaling \$11.1 million, but also in its program being replicated in institutes of higher learning across the country, including ASU.

When ASU joined the PAC-10, the ASU Hispanic Alumni began a rivalry with USC's MAAA. We commissioned a "menu pot" that would go to the winning alumni association after the ASU/USC football game. As the ASU Hispanics learned of the USC MAAA program, they invited Raul to meet with Dr. Russell Nelson, the ASU President, to assist in organizing a Hispanic scholarship program similar to USC MAAA. With Dr. Nelson's agreement, the Los Diablos, an ASU Hispanic scholarship program, was born. To date, the ASU Los Diablos Scholarship continues to assist Latino students at ASU. After seeing the USC Hispanic Convocation organized by USC MAAA during a visit to USC, the ASU Hispanic students also organized a similar Hispanic Convocation honoring ASU Hispanic graduates.

Mr. Speaker, it is with immense admiration and privilege that I ask my colleagues to join Raul's many friends and family in recognizing my dear friend in his lifetime of unwavering service to our nation's Latino students. We hope that Raul will enjoy this well-deserved retirement, to play golf and travel with his wife Marcia. He will also be able to spend more time with his son Cesar, daughter Tracey, and granddaughter Alexis. Raul, thank you and congratulations my friend!

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**DEDICATION OF THE ST. PETERSBURG PARKWAY/WILLIAM C. CRAMER MEMORIAL HIGHWAY**

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2006*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, today the St. Petersburg Parkway/William C. Cramer Memorial Highway will be dedicated in St. Petersburg, Florida. Bill became a trusted friend to many